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Commission on the Status of Women
Fiftieth session
27 February-10 March 2006
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by European Women's Lobby, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2006/1

06-21870 (E) 070206

Statement

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is a membership-based non governmental organisation that brings together over 4000 women's organisations in Europe working together to promote equality between women and men and to ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are taken into consideration in all European Union policies.

For an integrated approach to achieve gender equality in decision-making

1. The under representation of women in decision-making can be addressed only through an integrated approach; partial/sectorial measures are not enough. The pattern of whole social relations and structures requires examination and transformation.

2. The UN and its Member States have made strong commitments in relation to promoting women in decision-making. Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women commits all States Parties to *"take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life"*. Its Article 4 states that the adoption of *"temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination"*. The Beijing Platform for Action provides for a complete set of actions on women in power and decision-making, including an attention to institutional mechanisms of exclusions, unequal power relations and discriminatory attitudes and practices.

3. EWL stresses that a number of different mechanisms lead to the under-representation of women in decision-making, including: 1) Women's economic subordination: economic, social and cultural resources are necessary to attain political decision-making positions; 2) Symbolic factors linked to gender roles: political decision-making is still seen as a male domain and the distribution of tasks within the home continues to be gender-biased; 3) Electoral institutions, laws and functioning: electoral systems, holding of several mandates, role of political parties etc; 4) Economic and social structures, notably the lack of affordable services for the care of dependent persons create additional barriers.

4. The complexity of the problem therefore requires strong political will and a multifaceted approach, involving different actors.

5. EWL therefore urges the UN and its Member States to **implement a concerted action plan involving different political fields and actors, in order to remove the existing barriers** and to move towards gender equality in decision-making in all areas.

Achieving parity democracy: a challenge for democracy

6. In 2005, men occupied 84% of parliamentary seats in the world and women only 16%. Men therefore overwhelmingly dominate political decision-making, but also other fields, such as decision-making in international institutions, in the economic, social and financial areas as well as in conflict prevention and resolution across the world.

7. Inequalities in decision-making are a challenge for democracy, that is, democracy cannot be complete without the equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas and at all levels. The exclusion and discrimination mechanisms against women that are inherent to political systems and social structures need to be eradicated in order to achieve parity democracy and gender equality in decision-making. Political parties in particular play a crucial role as gatekeepers in excluding women from politics.

8. Parity is a strategy that aims at a profound transformation in the functioning of our democracies. Parity democracy implies the equal representation of women and men in decision-making positions. It is based on the idea that the essence of humanity is its duality as it is equally composed of women and men, and that both sexes should be represented whenever decisions are made that affect their lives.

9. EWL therefore calls on the UN and its Member States to adopt binding texts to ensure parity democracy and the equal representation of women and men in elected and nominated bodies at all levels of decision-making.

10. EWL calls on Member States to take action (including financial sanctions) for political parties to remove the obstacles to gender equality in decision-making, which are due to political parties structures and functioning.

11. EWL also calls on the UN and its Member States to ensure a gender balance in all national delegations at international level and to implement new mechanisms for delegations, which do not comprise a minimum number of representatives of each sex, to be penalised, for example through the removal of voting rights.

12. EWL has also launched a campaign for the election of a woman as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2006 and urges Member States to seek qualified women candidates with a strong record and commitment towards global peace and security, human rights and women's rights and to vote for a woman during the elections.

Conclusions

13. Given the different barriers that exclude women from full participation in decision-making at all levels, it is the responsibility of society and of the State to change the way politics and other social structures function. Quotas or parity democracy are one way to compensate for the obstacles that women face.

14. Different countries across the world have used different strategies, but the pace of progress needs to be accelerated. In the last 15 years, 50 countries in the world have introduced legal quotas. Thanks to quotas, some countries such as Costa Rica or Mozambique do better than a number of European countries. This shows that a fast-track approach to achieve the necessary step of a critical mass of women in politics is possible.

15. However, parity democracy or the equal representation of women and men in decision-making does not only involve numbers, it is a condition for change and it implies a profound alteration of the social contract and structures, which for centuries has assigned different roles to women and men.

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Statement submitted by Armenian International Women's Association, International Alliance of Women, International Association of Women in Radio and Television, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, Trickle up Program, United Nations Association of the United States of America, United States Committee for UNIFEM and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2006/1.

06-21876 (E) 070206

Statement

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, all members of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, direct your attention to the outstanding leadership of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) with regard to both themes of the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In the area "Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women…", UNIFEM has worked diligently to fulfil its mandate to serve as a catalyst for ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, often at the pre-investment stage.

Its recent publication, *Progress of the World's Women 2005*, advocates that strengthening women's economic security is vital to the reduction of poverty and the promotion of gender equality. Decent work is basic to achieving economic security. The report provides data that:

1. the proportion of women workers engaged in informal employment is generally greater than the proportion of men workers;
2. women are concentrated in the more precarious types of informal employment;
3. the average earnings from these types of employment are too low, in the absence of other sources of income, to raise households out of poverty;
4. workers in the informal economy frequently lack human rights and social inclusion, as compared to those in the formal economy.

The study provides models of what can and should be done to help the working poor, especially women, minimize the costs and maximize the benefits of their work. The report also suggests the necessity of advocacy to stop the generation of informal, insecure and badly paid employment by expanding formal employment opportunities as well as taking action to increase social protection and representative voice for the working poor, especially women.

UNIFEM projects, such as their efforts, in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS States, emphasize women's and girl's land and property rights that have aided rural women to secure and widen their economic opportunity. Two of UNIFEM's strategic focus areas — ending violence against women and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls — address the "enhanced participation of women in development" through education and health initiatives. The UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, which funds innovative projects, primarily at the national and local levels, has awarded to date $8.3 million in grants to 175 initiatives in 96 countries to educate women and enhance their capacities to combat violence.

Gender-based violence is one of the leading factors in HIV infection. Through the Trust Fund, UNIFEM and UNAIDS have created a partnership with Johnson and Johnson, a global manufacturer and provider of healthcare products and services, to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV and improve their access to HIV and AIDS services. Such public/private partnerships are a promising step in offering additional resources in creating an enabling environment for the advancement of women.

UNIFEM's strategic goal that focuses on achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war, promotes the second theme of this year's CSW — the equal participation of women and men in decision-making at all levels. UNIFEM's programs have been especially effective in promoting the presence of women in post-conflict situations where new constitutions and new governing bodies have been created such as Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and Iraq. The fostering of women's rights and participation, with an emphasis on strengthening mechanisms, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that protect and promote these rights, is contributing immensely to worldwide efforts to accept women as equal partners in decision-making.

The NGO Committee wholeheartedly endorses UNIFEM's important work and urges increased financial support, including for the Trust Fund, from Member States and private funders. We need UNIFEM's vigorous leadership in the promotion of women's human rights, the empowerment of women and gender equality.

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Statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2006/1.

06-21882 (E) 070206

Statement

1. The Commission on the Status of Women will consider two thematic issues at its fiftieth session this year: the enhanced participation of women in development and the equal participation of women in decision-making processes.

2. This written statement emphasizes the need to enhance the role of women in development and to continue the efforts to decrease trafficking in persons and address the role of military demand in trafficking. It also emphasizes the need to increase the political participation of women in order to achieve the ultimate purpose of gender equality and the advancement of women.

Enhanced participation of women in development to combat trafficking in persons

3. Trafficking in persons is a modern day form of slavery and a gross violation of the human dignity of trafficking victims. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders each year, the majority of which are women and children.

4. The growth and development of the transnational crime of trafficking in persons is fueled by globalization and governed by supply and demand forces operating in countries of origin and destination countries. These forces provide traffickers with a vulnerable population of victims in source countries and a market for cheap labor in destination countries. The root causes of trafficking in source countries include development processes that marginalize women from education and employment, gendered cultural practices, gender discrimination, and gender-based violence in families and communities. This creates a climate where women are vulnerable to promises of employment and opportunity made by traffickers.

5. Women are marginalized from employment when development strategies founded upon existing gendered divisions of labor preclude women from the opportunity to work in traditionally male occupations. This limits employment opportunities for women and creates a system where women who are economically dependent on men and become vulnerable to traffickers if that economic support is withdrawn.

6. The denial of access to education also marginalizes women. Poverty and gendered cultural practices are among many factors that contribute to the lack of educational opportunities available for women and girls. A disproportionate number of girls drop out of school early to bolster their family income by working in or outside the home. These girls are prevented from gaining necessary job skills for better employment as adults.

7. Education is also an effective anti-trafficking measure. Though not a complete solution, it raises awareness on the dangers of trafficking, including methods used by traffickers and consequences upon victims. When combined with development strategies, education can facilitate real employment alternatives for women in source countries.

8. Trafficking also hinders development because the organized crime rings that tend to facilitate trafficking undermine the growth of transparent local markets. Trafficking in persons leads to depressed economies and hinders development when victims are left without a means to pursue diverse economic and educational opportunities.

9. Trafficking in persons is a serious transnational crime and a gross violation of the human rights of trafficking victims, and its eradication should be a foremost goal of the international community. Programs designed to prevent trafficking in persons should acknowledge that the marginalization of women is a root cause of trafficking. Measures to increase access to education and employment opportunities must be recognized as a vital component of any program to combat trafficking in source countries.

Military demand of trafficking and the role of Security Council Resolution 1325

10. The global problem of human trafficking persists despite vigorous efforts in the international human rights community to deter the practice. Initial difficulties in arriving at a consensus definition of "trafficking" have slowed the collaborative effort in the prevention of trafficking. In addition, the lack of governmental and institutional stability that persists in regions of armed conflict aid the proliferation of trafficking without impunity for those who both arrange the trafficking of women and girls and those who stimulate the demand for trafficking, including military presences.

11. The United Nations plays a role in the complex global network of trafficking. Recent reports evidence that UN Peacekeepers are among the military presences responsible for contributing to the demand for global trafficking. This renders trafficking increasingly difficult to diminish due to the countervailing growth of demand created by various military presences in regions of armed conflict. Troops dispatched with the intention of maintaining peace in destabilized regions now contribute to the peripheral consequence of increasing the demand for the trafficking of sex workers.

12. Trafficking where soldiers are stationed destabilizes regions by increasing crime, as women and girls are usually brought into these areas by organized crime rings. This undermines the legitimacy and efficacy of the UN peacekeeping operations in the vulnerable regions that are in critical need of UN protection.

13. Moreover, UN Security Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) urges member states to remain actively involved in recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and more specifically, to provide effective institutional arrangements to guarantee the protection of women and girls in situations of armed conflicts. By extension, the intentions of SCR 1325 must be honored and extended to protect the women and girls that are harmed by the UN peacekeepers who contribute to the demand for trafficking in situations of armed conflict.

14. It is urged that the Security Council, member states, and United Nations entities continue to take all necessary measures implement the recommendations in SCR 1325 including to apply increased pressure to parties to armed conflict to cease all violations of the human rights of women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violations, and to conduct gender-sensitive investigations and report findings systematically to the Council on the role of the military in increasing the demand for trafficking.

Equal participation of women in decision-making processes

15. Equal participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels is a "sine qua non" condition for a functioning democracy. Democratic governments should continue to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making processes in order to strengthen and legitimize their regimes.

16. Despite significant progress since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, women are still not sufficiently involved in decision-making processes. A 187-country survey carried out by Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2005 indicates that the world average of women represented in national parliaments is 16.1%. Only 18 countries attained the critical mass of at least 30 per cent, which is believed to be the minimum size necessary for influence in decision-making processes.

17. Many countries adopted "positive discrimination" policies in order to eliminate the traditionally applied discrimination against women in almost all aspects of the political process. Among these is the establishment of quota systems and/or reserved seats in local and national elections, one of the most effective vehicles to be considered as "temporary special measures" within the scope of Article 4(1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which aims at accelerating de facto equality between men and women. To date, 81 nations include provisions in their constitutions, elections laws, or in political parties, which seek to enhance women's political participation at the local or national levels.

18. Uganda established a quota system in national elections which increased female representation in Parliament from 1% in 1987 to a high of 18% in 2000. South Africa also established quotas for political parties which increased representation from 2% in 30% in the same period. Alternatively, countries that abolished quota systems witnessed a dramatic decline in female representation in their national parliaments, including Albania, Hungary and Romania.

19. Candidate quotas are especially important in societies in which patriarchal values remain firmly entrenched. Patriarchal values threaten not only women vying for political seats but the civil and political rights of the general female population in such societies. Allowing greater female representation benefits not only the women vying for the political seats but also the broader female population that stands to gain from having female political representation.

20. Ensuring equal participation in decision-making processes means much more than simply increasing the number of women elected. The number of women in public and private spheres, including high-level government positions and executive leadership position needs to increase as well. Broad social changes in the way women's position in social and political life are viewed will take time. However, governments should lead this effort in concert with national and international non-governmental organizations and the media in order to accelerate the transformation and promote the global struggle for women's equality.

Recommendations

21. To achieve the ultimate goal of gender equality and the advancement of women, all necessary measures must be taken to enhance participation of women in development and increase their roles in decision-making processes. To combat trafficking in persons and the military demand for trafficking, women's access to education and employment opportunities must be increased and efforts made to prevent human rights violations against women, with particular emphasis on regions of armed conflict. Additionally, countries must take steps, including those for training and accountability, to recognize and address the demand created for trafficked persons by their own military forces. To further women's political participation, systems must be established for ensuring seats for women in local and national elections.

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Statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2006/1.

06-21888 (E) 070206

Statement

The Beijing Platform of Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement, and that additional obstacles exist for, "immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers." Substantial progress has been made on improving the participation of women in development, yet migrant women face significant and specific challenges in development demonstrated by increased susceptibility to violence and lack of full integration into political, social and economic institutions.

Women account for 49% of the almost 200 million migrants worldwide and since 1970 overall female migration has reached near parity with male migration.[1] Migrant women play an increasingly important role in the development process and their ability to access education, health and employment often impacts their family in both the countries of origin and destination. While migration can be an empowering experience for women contributing positively to national and individual development, migrant women can also be at greater risk to experience discrimination, violence and a denial of their human rights. As the Report of the Global Commission on International Migration 2005 states, "Women who migrate for the purpose of marriage, domestic labour or to work in the entertainment and sex industries are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and social isolation, as are those who are trafficked."

The situation of women migrants and gender-based approach to migration was also a central theme in all reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Migrants since 2000. These reports document that migrant women are often more dependent on employers than men and are at greater risk for exploitation and abuse. They also recommend that countries develop policies that enhance migrant women's employment opportunities, access to safe housing, education, language training, health care and other services in the host country.[2]

Franciscans International, representing over 800,000 Franciscan men and women in 180 countries around the world, works on behalf of the poor for peace, justice and care for creation; advocating for the realization of the full equality and dignity of all creation.

Throughout the world, Franciscans work to protect and empower migrants, specifically migrant women, enabling them to participate fully in the development process.

Franciscans International's recent study, "What kind of protection for migrant workers in Lebanon?" highlighted the lack of Migrants' rights in Lebanon, especially migrant domestic workers from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Nigeria. Franciscan members advocate for migrant women in cases of sexual abuse, mistreatment, harassment, and even death. They give social and pastoral support to the migrant worker populations and are committed to raising community awareness through sensitization and education campaigns for students, authorities and government officials. However, reforms in national laws and public information are necessary to create an enabling environment for migrant women.

For example, Franciscans in Lebanon recently assisted a female migrant worker who was accused of stealing her employer's credit card and was taken to the police station in Broumana. There she was brutally beaten and transferred to another detention center where police officers used belts to beat her until she lost consciousness. Afterwards, someone entered her cell room, beat her again and raped her several times as was confirmed by the doctor who later examined her.

In light of the status of migrant women and the nexus between achieving gender equality, development and the situation of migrant women, Franciscans International urges the Commission on the Status of Women to:

- Include the protection and empowerment of migrant women in achieving gender equality in the future programme of work;

[1] IOM. *World Migration Report 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration*. Section 3.
[2] E/CN.4/2005/85.

- Reform working methods to facilitate the greater inclusion and participation of relevant special mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (or future Human Rights Council) such as the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, and Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Migrants.

Franciscans International urges members States to:

- Ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and ILO Conventions 97 and 143 on migrant workers;
- Implement development policies and strategies which are gender-sensitive, paying specific attention to the participation and challenges of migrant women. Migrant women's groups should be effectively involved in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development and integration policies;
- Incorporate a gender perspective in migration policies and programmes which must also have greater national and international coherence, capacity and cooperation;
- Inform migrant women of their rights and responsibilities under international and national laws and develop educational and communications programmes taking into consideration their cultural and linguistic backgrounds;
- Review and amend relevant national laws regarding migration to include a gender perspective, incorporating the circumstances migrant women face especially when claiming status based on their relationship to men.

Franciscans International also notes that the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa which entered into force in November 2005 includes enhanced protections for women in development and politics, building upon the rights recognized in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Franciscans International would, therefore, like to call upon:

- State parties to the Protocol to promptly implement its provisions, and those who are not yet parties to ratify it without reservations which may inhibit its effectiveness;
- States to strengthen and reinforce the promotion and protection of the rights of women at the regional level as well.

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Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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Statement

The activities of the International Network of Liberal Women (INLW) are inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The INLW applies those principles, on which the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is also based.

At the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in relation to "participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work", the International Network of Liberal Women states:

Twenty-five years after the entry into force (1981) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), neutral gender policies are insufficient.

The Convention was generated because the Charter of the United Nations, as well as other instruments guaranteeing equality and non-discrimination, did not in practice ensure specific rights for women.

Based on the previous models established by some men and a few women who had reached the same level in different status, equal treatment between men and women cannot be guaranteed.

At the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Beijing + 10: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" it was recognized that the empowerment of women is the most powerful tool for achieving development and poverty reduction and that the remaining obstacles must be overcome. INLW believes that the contribution of women to development must be recognized. The climate of structural change which is being introduced in today's economy and in the advanced countries of the OECD demonstrates the need for these principles to be introduced at the global level.

Recognition of the contribution of women to society in private life is accepted, but her contribution to economic, social, work and political structures should be facilitated.

Peace, development and equality are the three main goals that societies should adopt to face the future and are the thread leading from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

Women, who traditionally had not been able to participate in managing the changes and the political and social processes affecting them, must be able to participate in decision-making processes in the economic, social and political worlds.

The obstacles preventing women from participating openly in the economy are structural in nature.

The experience brought by women can be a source of hope for the future. If they are allowed to be, women are well-placed to meet the challenges the future will bring us.

Work

The point must be reached where public opinion recognizes the contributions that men and women, under the same conditions, can make to shared family and work responsibilities. We believe that job segregation of women should be avoided because it increases unemployment, accentuates the imbalances that exist between men and women and produces some inequalities that go beyond inequality in employment.

INLW wishes to assist in the process of raising awareness in our society in favour of equal opportunity.

Education

At the world conference "Education for All" (Dakar 1990) the importance of educating girls and women was stressed.

Education for women is necessary for their participation in social and economic life, and essential to escape poverty in developing countries. The right to education has been enshrined explicitly in international conventions and is universally accepted.

In countries with appropriate public policies, the presence of girls in the educational system is increasing and results in benefits to society, but the majority of illiterate adults in the world are women and most children without schooling are girls.

Health

It must be acknowledged that women are discriminated against in the area of health. By way of example, each year over a half million women die during pregnancy or childbirth because of unreliable health care.

The incorporation of gender in health research can give new meaning to the health-care system, both in preventive care and its educational, social and legal aspects.

One example is that women and girls receive health care only in reference to motherhood, without taking into account the integral health of women from puberty to old age. In practice, we believe that different treatment than for men's health is appropriate, because men and women are physically unequal.

Therefore, INLW makes the following recommendations:

- Include a gender perspective in statistics and promote technical advisory services for the presentation of reports.
- Apply the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, in order to overcome gender segregation in the labour market.
- Adopt job evaluation systems based on gender-neutral criteria, including information on salaries and unemployment.
- Prepare statistical reports on changes for women in rural areas, taking into account that most women in developing countries live in such areas.
- Implement training and self-help programmes for women in rural areas.

- Ensure access to land ownership.
- Grant credit and loans to women as independent persons and give them the right to sign contracts.
- Finance literacy programmes, with the participation of the women themselves, which take their interests into account.
- Facilitate access to education in science and research.
- Include women in new information technology.
- Introduce a gender perspective in carrying out health programmes so that men and women can receive gender-appropriate health care.
- Adopt appropriate measures intended to change sociocultural patterns, especially those affecting women's health (for instance female circumcision and other forms of castration) by compiling and then distributing data on these practices.
- Avoid discrimination against women in preventive health care and in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in particular.
- Take measures to enable women's active participation in primary health care as educators in the prevention of the most common infections.
- Promote programmes to raise awareness of the elimination of violence against women.
- Take preventive and punitive measures to eradicate all types of prostitution, exploitation, trafficking in women and sex tourism where children and women are victims.

Education for all is the best way to establish democracy, tolerance and international peace, whose basic principles are justice and recognition that all human beings are born free and equal.

One of the objectives of INLW is to begin reflecting on the new values and abilities that must be developed to achieve peace.

Peace, development and equality are the three major goals that societies must accept in facing the future.

For this purpose, they must recover from historical memory the contributions that unknown women have made in times of war.

Women preserve social order, educate for peace, organize to coordinate the delivery of basic necessities and maintain some level of normalcy in daily life. Women coordinate aids to cooperation, establish NGOs and take on the task of telling the world the reality of war.

Women should intervene in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts because they are its main victims.

The culture of peace, with the values of dialogue, equality, respect for the dignity of all human beings, especially women, is the most effective means towards democracy, tolerance and international peace.